

*As a church-related entity, it is important that our school clearly identifies the basic theological beliefs which form the foundation of our view of central spiritual issues. The following statements clarify our core beliefs.*

### **How do we speak concisely about our faith?**

**THE APOSTLE'S CREED:** I believe in God the Father Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord: Who was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty, whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic\* church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen. \*The word "catholic" refers to all who believe in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. This creed received its title because of its great antiquity, dating from the first centuries of the church.

### **Where do we get information about God & faith?**

**THE BIBLE:** We believe that the Bible, consisting of sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, was given by the inspiration of God and is the inerrant Word of God in its original manuscripts; that it reveals our state by nature and presents the only means of our salvation; and that it constitutes the perfect and final authority in all matters pertaining to Christian faith and practice. (John 16:13; II Tim. 3:15-17; II Peter 1:19-21; I Thess. 2:13; Rom. 3:10-12; Acts 4:12; Acts 17:11; Isa. 8:20)

### **Who is God?**

**THE GODHEAD:** We believe that there is one living God, Jehovah, perfect, infinite and eternal, who is unchangeable in His being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, love and truth; who exists in one essence as three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who are equal in their divine perfection and harmonious in the execution of their distinct offices. (Deut. 6:4; Ps. 83:18; Ex. 6:2-3; Matt. 5:48; I Kings 8:27; Ps. 90:2; Mal. 3:16; I Tim. 1:17; Gen. 17:1; Isa. 6:3, 43:10-11; Ps. 19:9; Ex. 34:6; Jn. 3:16; Matt. 28:18-19; Luke 3:22; Jn. 5:17; Jn. 14:16-17; Jn. 15:26; Eph. 2:18; I Jn. 5:7)

**THE FATHER:** We believe that God is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, and spiritual Father of all believers in Christ. He is the Creator, Preserver, and Ruler of the Universe. (Jn. 20:17; Jn. 3:16; Gen. 1:1; Heb. 11:3; Neh. 9:6; Heb. 1:2; Ps. 103:19; Eph. 1:11)

**THE SON:** We believe that in the fullness of time the Son humbled Himself and assumed human nature by being born of the Virgin Mary, thus uniting organically and indissolubly the divine and human natures in the one unique person of Jesus Christ. By becoming man, He was made like us, and having a body, He offered it as a sacrifice for us. Being eternal God; and without sin, the sacrifice He made on Calvary was infinite in value. He rose bodily from the grave and ascended into heaven to the right hand of the Father, both as a confirmation of His divinity and of His ultimate triumph over sin and death. (Isa. 7:14, 9:6; Matt. 1:18-25; Luke 1:34-35; Jn. 1:1,14, 20:28-29; I Tim. 3:16; Heb. 2:14; Eph. 1:7; Heb. 10:9-10; Jn. 8:58; Phil. 2:6-11; II Cor. 5:21; Heb. 4:15, 7:26-27; Jn. 1:29; Jn. 2:1-2; Rom. 1:4, 25; Col. 1:14, 20, 2:9; 1 John 3:5; 1 Peter 2:22; Rom. 5:8-9; Acts 2:23, 5:30-31; 1 Peter 3:22)

**THE HOLY SPIRIT:** We believe that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity, co-equal with the Father and the Son. He proceeds from the Father and the Son. His principle ministry since His coming at Pentecost is to remove or convict the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment: to restrain the progress of evil until God's purposes are accomplished; to bear witness to the truth preached; the regeneration of those who repent of their sins and exercise faith in Christ; to instruct, comfort, and guide God's children; to sanctify them; to empower them for life and service; and to give life to their mortal bodies by the Holy Spirit is baptized by the Holy Spirit; and sanctified by the Holy Spirit. The believer is told not to grieve, not to quench, but to yield to, and to be filled with the Holy Spirit. We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit which includes: the baptism in the Holy Spirit as a distinct experience from regeneration; His indwelling whereby the Christian is enabled to live a godly life; His supernatural gifting and empowering of the church for its work, life, and worship. (Matt. 28:19; Ex. 17:7 with Heb. 3:7-9; I Cor. 3:16; Jn. 15:26; Jn. 16:8-11; II Thess. 2:7; Acts 5:30-32; Jn. 3:3-8; Titus 3:5; Jn. 14:16-18, 26; Jn. 16:13; II Thess. 2:13; I Peter 1:3; Rom. 8:2; Acts 1:4-8, 2:1-4, 10:44-46; Eph. 3:16; I Cor. 2:14; I Thess. 1:5; Eph. 1:13; I Cor. 12, 14; II Cor. 12:13; II Thess. 2:13; I Peter 1:2; Eph. 4:30; I Thess. 5:19; Rom. 6:13-19; Eph. 5:18; Luke 24:49)

### **Who are we as human beings?**

**CREATION:** We believe that human beings were created by an immediate act of God and not by a process of evolution; that the purpose of our creation is to glorify God; that humanity was created in the image of God, possessing the character for Christ-likeness; and that humanity was endowed with power of rational and responsible choice between good and evil. (Gen. 1:27; Col. 3:10; Acts 17:24-28)

**THE FALL:** We believe human beings were subjected to trial in the Garden of Eden, in order to test their loyalty to God. Under trial they lost their holy estate by voluntarily transgressing God's positive command and yielding to the enticement of Satan, were alienated by God, and became depraved physically, mentally, morally, and spiritually. In consequence of this act of disobedience, the entire human race became involved in sin so that in every heart there is by nature that evil disposition, which eventually leads to responsible acts of sin and to just condemnation. (Gen. 2:15-17; Gen. 3:1-6; Heb. 1:8-10; Rom. 5:12-18, 3:10-12, 23, 1:19-31; Eph. 4:18)

**REDEMPTION:** We believe that God has provided redemption for all human beings through the mediatorial work of Christ, who voluntarily sacrificed Himself on Calvary as a perfect sacrifice for sin, the just suffering for the unjust, being made sinful for us, bearing sin's curse, and tasting death for every person. (Matt. 20:28; Heb. 9:11-12; I Peter 3:18; II Cor. 5:21; Gal. 3:13; Heb. 2:9; I Tim. 2:5-6)

## How does God love us?

**SALVATION, JUSTIFICATION, AND REGENERATION:** We believe that salvation is wholly of grace, but conditional on repentance toward God and acceptance of Christ's work on the Cross by faith. When the sinner believes the Gospel and puts trust in Christ, God justifies and regenerates him. Justification is a judicial act of God whereby the believer is declared righteous on the basis of Christ's punishment on the Cross. Regeneration makes the believer a new creation in Christ Jesus by the operation of the Holy Spirit through the Word, the believer is given a disposition to obey God. (Eph. 2:1-16; Titus 3:5; Acts 4:12, 23; 16:31; Rev. 5:9; I Cor. 6:11; Rom. 3:24-25, 4:4-5, 5:1-9; Acts 13:39; II Cor. 5:17, 7:10; Jn. 1:12-13, 3:3-7; I Peter 1:23; 1 John 5:11-13)

## How does God work in our life every day?

**SANCTIFICATION:** We believe that in positional sanctification the believer is cleansed and set apart for God. In progressive sanctification the believer becomes conformed to the image of Christ. Ultimate sanctification, and complete victory over sin, awaits us at the coming of Christ. (I Cor. 6:11; II Cor. 3:18; I Jn. 3:2)

## How do we worship & serve together? What special services do we share together?

**THE CHURCH:** We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that the church invisible and universal is an organism composed of all those who are called out of the world, separated to God and vitally united by faith to Christ, its living Head and Ruler; that the church local and visible is an organization made up of a company of professed believers in Christ, voluntarily joined together and meeting at stated times for worship and instruction in the Word, to observe the ordinances, and to administer discipline. It is the duty of the church to give the Gospel as a witness to all people; to build itself up in the most holy faith; to minister to the widows and orphans, the sick and afflicted, stranger and sojourner; and to glorify God. (Matt. 16:18; I Peter 1:13-16, 2:9; cf. Jn. 15:18; Eph. 1:22-24; 4:15-16; I Cor. 12:12-27; Acts 2:41-47; 20:7; I Cor. 16:2; Matt. 18:15-17; I Cor. 5:1-5; Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:8, 5:42; Jude 20-21; Eph. 4:11-12; 16; Acts 6:1-9, 16:4-5, 20:32; James 1:27; I Peter 4:11; Jn. 17:11, 21-23; Rom. 12:4-5)

**ORDINANCES:** We believe that two Christian ordinances were appointed by Christ to be administered in each church, not as a means of salvation, but as visible signs and symbols of the facts and realities of salvation:

**BAPTISM:** We believe that baptism by immersion in water is the public confession of Christ as Savior and Lord. It is a symbol of one's union, by faith, with Christ in death, burial, and resurrection, and therefore is to be administered by immersion only to those who have given evidence of faith in Christ as their personal Savior. In effect, baptism identifies the believer with the visible body of Christ. (Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38-41; Rom. 6:3-5, Col. 2:12; Acts 8:36-39)

**The Lord's Supper:** We believe that the Lord's Supper should be observed by all believers in obedience to the command, "This do in remembrance of Me." It consists of partaking of the bread and cup, which symbolize the death of Christ for the remission of our sins, our need for self-examination, and union with Christ and with other believers. The Lord's Table is open to all believers who are in right relationship with God and one another, regardless of denomination. (I Cor. 10:17; Matt. 26:26-30; Luke 22:19-20; I Cor. 10:16; I Cor. 11:23-26)

## How do we engage our community?

**ATTITUDE TOWARD SOCIETY:** We believe in a lifestyle and practice of ethical conduct and integrity consistent with the character of Jesus Christ and biblical standards. We believe that civil government is ordained of God for the punishment of evil-doers, and for the protection of the good. We therefore consider it our duty to pray for rulers and magistrates; and to be obedient to their authority, except in things contrary to the will of God. We are not to withdraw from the world, but to endeavor to be its salt and light, doing all in our power to bring righteousness and justice to human institutions and relationships. (Rom. 12:1-2, 13:1-7; Gal. 5:19-21; I Tim. 2:1-3, 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11, 2:11-13, 3:1, 9-11; I Peter 1:13-16, 2:13-14; Acts 4:19; Acts 5:29; Matt. 23:10; Matt. 5:13-16; I Cor. 6:9-10; John 17:15; Eph. 4:13-32)

## What happens when our life on earth ends? What do we believe about future events?

**RESURRECTION AND IMMORTALITY:** We believe that, at the return of the Lord, the righteous dead will be raised and the living believers will be changed so that both will have literal, spiritual, and immortal bodies like Christ's own glorious body. (Rom. 8:23; I Cor. 15:3-4; I Thess. 4:16-17; Phil. 3:20-21; cf. Luke 24:4-7, 36-48; Acts 1:3; Rev. 1:17-18)

**CHRIST'S SECOND COMING:** We believe in the personal, visible, pre-millennial and imminent return of Christ in power and glory. First, Christ will descend into the air to catch away His waiting bride, the Church. Christ will descend with His saints to establish the long promised kingdom, and to reign upon the earth for a thousand years. Prior to Christ's ultimate return to reign, the great tribulation judgments will be visited upon the apostate and rebellious world. (Jn. 14:1-3; Acts 1:10-11; Mark 13:34-37, 14:62; I Thess. 1:10, 4:13-18; I Cor. 15; Rev. 3:11; Jude 14; Rom. 8:16-19; Col. 3:4; Dan. 7:13-14; Luke 1:32-33; Phil. 2:9-11; Rev. 1:5-7, 5:9-10, 19:14, 20:4-6, 11-12; Jer. 30:7; Matt. 24:21; II Thess. 1:2-10; Rev. 6-19)

**JUDGMENTS:** We believe that the believer's sins are judged in Christ on the Cross; and that the believer's works will be judged for rewards at the judgment seat of Christ at the time of His coming. We believe that the unrepentant wicked will appear before God for judgment at the great white throne after the Millennium to be consigned to the lake of fire with the devil and his angels. (II Cor. 5:21; Gal. 3:13; Jn. 5:24, 28-29; I Cor. 3:8-15; 4:5; II Cor. 5:10; II Tim. 4:8; Eccl. 12:14; Matt. 10:28; Mark 9:43-48; Rom. 2:8-9; Heb. 9:27; Rev. 20:10-15; cf. Rev. 14:9-11)

## What future may each of us choose?

**THE ETERNAL STATE:** We believe that after all God's enemies are consigned to punishment, the present order of things will be dissolved and the new heaven and the new earth, wherein dwells righteousness, shall be brought in as the final state in which the righteous will dwell forever. (Isa. 65:17; 66:22; II Peter 3:10-13; Rev. 7; 21:1-22)